The South 40

Care for your strawberries

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

This has really been a big strawberry year. Berries are very sensitive to water. They need enough, but cannot tolerate excessive amounts. The margin is very small.

In March of 1982, I transplanted 100 Scott plants. They were sprayed with DCPA at transplanting, Enide and Tenoran about July 1, and Tenoran plus Devrinol in late December. Weed control was 98%. Scott is a very aggressive runner producer.

Earlier in the year, talking with the Virginia Tech small fruits specialist, he commented that Scott has not performed well in Blacksburg. It produced a lot of foliage, but little fruit. He admitted that it might be an acceptable variety in this area of the state. We harvested 596 quarts from the planting in 1983.

Now is the time to spend a few hours with your berry plants, if you want high production in a weed-free environment. If weeds are to be controlled, it most likely will be done chemically--labor is too costly and most gardeners just aren't willing to contribute the time required for hand weeding. Remember, weeds compete with berries for light, nutrients, moisture and will interfere with pesticide applications. Weeds also create an ideal environment for plant disease development.

Before applying any pesticide, calibrate the sprayer. One method for a hand sprayer is put in one gallon of water and determine how many square feet the gallon of water covers, using your stride and speed of walking. A fan nozzle is desirable for applying herbicides.

Renovation steps:

1. Mow the strawberries, leaving a one inch stub--Do not injure the crown.
2. Rototil or cultivate row middles to remove runner growth.
3. Thin plants in row, leaving a 6 to 8 inch space between each plant.
4. Rake and remove all excess growth and mulch material.
5. Spray with Enide 90 W at rate of 4.4 to 6.6 pounds per acre. May make two applications annually, six months apart. Requires 1 inch of moisture after application. Particularly effective on annual grasses.

And spray with Tenoran 50 W at 6.0 to 8.0 pounds per acre. Limited to two applications annually. Particularly effective on broadleaf weeds.

6. Apply nitrogen (Nitrate soda or ammonium nitrate) at rate of ½ to ¾ lb. per 100 foot row.
7. Irrigate with at least one inch of water.
8. In mid-August, apply 10-10-10 rate 1 pound per 100 foot row.
9. Late November, early December, spray with Tenoran, same rate as in Item 5 and mulch with pine tags.
10. Late February or early March, spray with Devrinol 50W at rate of 4.0 to 8.0 pounds per acre. Devrinol requires rain or irrigation within 3 to 5 days after application. Do not apply between bloom and harvest. Make only one application annually.

Do not fertilize established plantings in the spring. The two fertilizations referred to above are adequate.

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Watch for budworms on tobacco. They appear to be unusually heavy. Chemical application is worthwhile when there are 5 budworms per 50 plants.

Lannate and Nudrin are the most effective chemicals applied as foliar sprays, but more than one application is often required for good control. Bacillus thuringiensis baits (Dipel, Sok-BT and Thuricide) are more difficult to apply than foliar sprays, but their control is usually better and longer lasting than most chemicals applied as sprays. Mix 1 pound of a wettable Bt formulation in 49 pounds of corn meal. Apply a pinch (about 1 teaspoon) in the bud of each plant. Need to start early in the morning and apply before the bud begins to close up. Pennecap M, Orthene, Ascerin and Sevin sprays also provide fair to good budworm control.

Foliar sprays should be applied through hollow-cone or solid cone nozzles, placed 12 to 18 inches over the row. Use at least 20 gallons of water/acre and 60 psi.

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BRETT MARSTON, 15 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Marston of Red House, was announced as the 1983 State 4-H Public Speaking winner during the State 4-H Congress last week on the Virginia Tech Campus. Brett's speech, entitled "Thank God, I'm A Country Boy" was judged tops in the state during competition on Tuesday, June 21. Awards for the State 4-H Public Speaking Program are sponsored by the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars. 4-H Public Speaking has been a highlight of Brett's 4-H career. He has participated in local and county 4-H Public Speaking programs each year since the fourth grade. In addition, he has also participated in area district and most recently, state 4-H Public Speaking. 4-H Public Speaking is sponsored locally by Farmers National Bank.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

On Monday, July 4, more than 150 4-H'ers, teen leaders and adult leaders will leave for a week at Holiday Lake 4-H Camp. Plans are to meet at the Appomattox Primary School at 8:30 a.m. and to leave for camp by 9:45 a.m. Luggage and bedding will be loaded on trucks and the 4-H'ers will be transported to camp on school buses.

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Last week's State 4-H Congress on the Virginia Tech Campus was a big success. Appomattox 4-H'ers taking part in the week long activities were: Howard Anderson, Lucy Christian, Darrell Conner, Richard Conner, Martha Haley, Anne Hancock, Lisa Harrison, David Hancock, Ernest Humbles, Ada Hunter, Brett Marston, Glen McClenny, Kenneth McClenny, Terri Nash, Blair Smith, April Talbot, Robert Taylor, Laura Walton, Jeff Williams and Cheryl Wooten. Accompanying the group were Miss Pam White, volunteer leader and Frank Sweet, Extension Agent.

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The following volunteer leaders will be assisting with the 4-H camping program at Holiday Lake next week: Mrs. Gladys Moon, Mrs. Jean Mills, Mrs. Jeanne Clabough, Miss Pam White, Miss Chipper Nash, Mr. Michael Hancock, Mr. Roy Moon and Mr. David Mabe. These folks will add a great deal to the camping program.

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State 4-H Electric Congress will be held August 15-17 at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Richmond. Electric Congress is sponsored by the various electric power suppliers of Virginia. Included in the program for this year's Electric Congress will be a tour of a nuclear power plant, an "energy quiz bowl" and a visit with a member of Governor Robb's Cabinet. Senior 4-H'ers from across Virginia will have the opportunity to participate based on their work in the 4-H Electric project.

ASCS Today

Certification deadline nears

By TOM CONRAD

Friday, July 1, Last Day to Certify Crops - Farmers have only until Friday to report their 1983 planted acres to the ASCS office. The final certificaiton date is July 1.

Program participants are required to report crops and acreages planted, the uses to be made of these crops and cropland acres to be devoted to conservaton uses. Nonparticipants need to certify their crops for future programs. In addition to history purposes, the acreage reports are also necessary for proven yields.

ASCS will randomly check farms to verify that acreage reports are accurate and have aerial photographs available for farmers to identify their fields. To be sure of planted acres, farmers can request measurement service. For a nominal fee a farmer can request that his planted crops be measured prior to reporting acreages. The fee covers the cost of the farm visit and the measuring of one area. This is a valuable service not only to producers participating in the acreage reduction and payment-in-kind programs, but to any farmer who desires an accurate acreage measurement for any reason.

Crop certification is necessary before the farmer can receive price support and other program benefits.

Spring seeded crops may be certified Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We hope that farmers will report their acreages by the July 1 deadline.

Maleic Hydrazide Levels Down in Flue-Cured Tobacco: Testing to Continue - Testing and analysis of the 1982 flue-cured tobacco crop showed about a 10 percent decrease in Maleic hydrazide residue levels from the levels found in the 1981 crop, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

This is very encouraging, but we feel levels can be reduced further and testing and analysis will continue on a limited basis for the 1983 crop.

Maleic hydrazide (MH) is a chemical used to retard the growth of tobacco "suckers" which overwise have to be removed by hand from the plant at considerable cost to the producer. "Suckers" are shoots that grow from the stem, sapping the plant's strength and slowing its growth.

The United States has no tolerance levels for MH residue but some importing countries have expressed concern about the levels detected in U.S. flue-cured tobacco. It is imperative to bring these levels down further and maintain our U.S. tobacco export market.

The decrease is a direct result of a strong program of education and testing involving several USDA agencies and state and extension personnel.

"We will continue our educational program for producers on the proper use of MH," Rank said. "USDA's Agricultural Stabilisaiton and Conservation Service, Extension Service, and Agricultural Marketing Service will take part, along with schools of agriculture at land granduniversities.

The tobacco industry, which has great interest in seeing MH levels reduced, will provide the funds necessary to conduct the chemical testing for MH residue on the 1983 crop.

He said test results will continue to be evaluated to determine whether tobacco program eligibility requirements should be modified to take into consideration the improper use of MH.

Local FFA fares well

The Appomattox Senior FFA Chapter and several members fared well in the recent State FFA Convention held on the campus of Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va. The chapter was recognized for achievements in five areas of work, while members received three top area awards, a third and a fifth place finish in team events, had ten members elected to State Farmer Degree and had one member selected to attend the AIC national meeting.

Glen McClenny won top honors in the state in the area of Beef Production and was also named Star Farmer from the South-Side Area. Richard Conner was recognized as tops in the state in Turf and Landscape Management. Both individuals will have their applications submitted for regional competition.

In team events, the Farm Business Management team placed third in the state competition. Glen McClenny was named highest scoring contestant and Virginia Marshall was fourth highest contestant on the state level. The Agribusiness team consisting of Cat Ballowe and Lynn Padgett placed fifth in the overall state contest. This is the first year the chapter has fielded a team in this event.

Ricky Steadman attended the convention as a participant in the Co-op Seminar. Based upon his performance and achievement during the seminar, he was selected to receive a trip to the American Institute of Cooperation at Ohio State University in August.

The FFA Chapter was represented in the Crops Judging Contest by Kenneth McClenny, Le Moore and Bob Poole. Advisors J. L. Burcher, A.H. Carter, J.W. Morgan and B.K.Waddell also attended the convention.

The Senior FFA Chapter was recognized for its work in the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program with a gold emblem rating and placed sixth in the state Chapter Contest, receiving a superior rating. The chapter applications in these two areas will be considered for national awards later this year. In addition, the chapter received a superior rating in the Chapter Safety Award program and was recognized as a 100% Membership Award chapter and a Public Relations Chapter.

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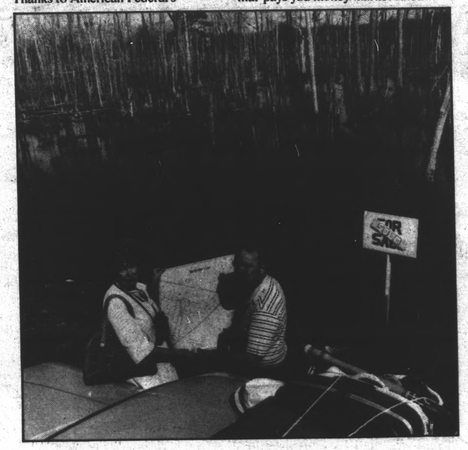

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Local D.E. officers named

The Distributive Education Club of Appomattox County High School has elected its new officers for the 1983-84 school year. The new slate of officers is: President, Susan Coggins; Executive VP, Roslyn Megginson; 1st VP, Thomas Doss; 2nd VP, Jack Williams; Secretary, F. C. Carter; Treasurer, Frank Webber; Historian 1, Mary Jane Lann; Historian 2, Lynn Robinson; Reporter, Serena Ferguson; Parliamentarian, Sandra McFadden.

These officers were first introduced at the Annual Employee - Employer Banquet in May. They will be officially installed at the first club meeting in September. These officers will be meeting several times over the summer to plan the program of work of the ACHS DECA Chapter. Their first officers' meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, at 11 a.m. in the Distributive Education classroom. Any interested DECA members are also invited to attend this meeting.

IRS grants stay

The Internal Revenue Service is granting to all payors of interest and dividend income an automatic one - month extension of the requirement to withhold tax scheduled to begin July 1, 1983.

The automatic one - month extension is being granted to alleviate any undue hardship to payors.

The action is being taken in light of the June 16, 1983, Senate action to repeal the withholding provisions which were enacted by the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibil i t y Act of 1982.

The IRS noted that there has been no final action concerning repeal. The Congress continues to consider expanded backup withholding and other compliance measures.

Willy Caldwell named

It was announced this week by Peggy Morse, area coordinator for The Blue Ridge Chapter, National MS Society, Willy Caldwell will head up the Pamplin - area Hope Chest appeal to raise funds for the fight against MS (multiple sclerosis).

Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease affecting the brain and spinal cord. It is not contagious nor is it a mental disease. It has been called the "mysterious crippler of young adults" because it is usually first diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40.

Technically, the disease attacks the myelin sheathing of the central nervous system, destroying it in patches. The myelin sheath acts much like the insulation around telephone wires, and when it is destroyed, the flow of nerve impulses to and from the brain is interupted or distorted. The resultant symptoms from this destruction of myelin can be: paralysis, double vision, bladder or bowel problems, loss of balance, loss of coordination, and speech and hearing difficulties, among others. There are more than 500,000 people in America with MS.

Mr. Caldwell will be looking for volunteers to canvas the neighborhood. If you would like to help . . . he can be reached by calling (804) 248-5365.

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